

A great friend of Austin music passes away unexpectedly

By Michael Corcoran | Tuesday, October 27, 2009, 03:52 PM

Robin Shivers, who co-founded the Health Alliance of Austin Musicians, died in her sleep Monday night, a HAAM spokesperson confirmed Tuesday.

More than 1,400 Austin musicians, who couldn't otherwise afford it, have received low cost healthcare through HAAM, which formed in 2005 when Shivers and Diana Resnick of the Seton Family of Hospitals, put their plan into action.

Shivers started a management company to unconditionally champion Loose Diamonds, her favorite Austin band, but her greatest passion was in helping Austin musicians in general. The wife of fellow philanthropist Allan "Bud" Shivers, she shunned the spotlight and was happy to stay in the background.

The term "a class act" doesn't go far enough to describe the striking and generous Shivers who never used a curse word, even referring to one of Austin's most notorious bands as "the B.H. Surfers" when the Shivers-led Texas Music Association gave them an award in 1996. Shivers didn't come off as a woman of means, but rather as one who had the resources to volunteer fulltime. Getting credit for her good deeds meant absolutely nothing to her.

"She was a tireless promoter of 'Austin City Limits,'" said the show's producer Jeff Peterson. Shivers was instrumental in organizing the annual KLRU fundraising concerts; in 1991 she booked an up-and-coming country singer named Garth Brooks to entertain a packed house at the Travis County Expo Center.

The cause of death has not yet been determined.